

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of duties relating to wildlife management and use of control techniques aimed at controlling wildlife damage, particularly that of predatory animals, when it conflicts with man's economic interest, health or safety. The work is primarily concerned with WS operations relating to the cessation, alleviation or mitigation of problems created by carnivores, rodents, birds and other animals in urban or rural environments.

DUTIES

Serves as a member of the WS workforce engaged in animal damage control operations.

Incumbent will be required to be familiar with and know how to use various devices, chemicals, tools, firearms and related equipment utilized in animal and bird damage control operations.

Prepares baits and constructs or sets devices, lures, traps, etc., in accordance with standard operational procedures.

Responsible for, and may instruct others in, the maintenance, repair and safekeeping of tools, supplies and equipment issued. When using M-44 or other toxic materials, must maintain records pursuant to the State Pesticide statutes and regulations and Environmental Protection Agency use restrictions.

Must be able to identify predator or rodent species by sight, sound, tracks, type of depredation or damage present, examine other appropriate evidence and correctly identify such damage situations and relate them to the depredating species.

Coordinates animal control efforts with the cooperators and cooperator's contractors, particularly in relation to public use. Incumbent provides routine reports on wildlife damage control related problems.

Records observations, sightings, activities, or other events daily and reports these to the supervisor.

Must conduct all operations using approved safety procedures and in accordance with local, State and Federal laws and regulations, and USDA, APHIS, and WS policies.

May participate in aerial hunting of predators as a gunner or ground crew member in areas where it is authorized by State law.

FACTORS

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

Knowledge of the WS program and animal damage control techniques and practices.

Knowledge of the appropriate local, State and Federal laws, regulations and policies pertaining to the Wildlife Service program.

Practical knowledge and experience in animal damage control techniques to perform a limited range of technical assistance and field operations to control animal damage.

Basic knowledge of biological relationships as they relate to wildlife management techniques.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

Incumbent works under the general supervision of the State Director or a designated representative. Typical assignments involve a variety of field and office tasks assigned by the supervisor, who provides general instructions. Incumbent will be expected to exercise sound judgment in the performance of assigned duties and understand the relationship between WS field operations and program objectives.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines include Federal, State and local laws, regulations and rules. USDA guidelines are available in the form of WS manuals, administrative manuals, statutory provisions of applicable legislation and by policies and procedures specified in correspondence. Guidelines available are specific to assigned tasks and require little judgment to be used.

COMPLEXITY

The work involves a wide variety of routine, procedural tasks leading toward the development of an organized, effective animal damage control program. The incumbent's background knowledge, field experience, research and interaction with other individuals/groups will all be needed to develop a sound, workable program.

SCOPE AND EFFECT

The purpose of the work is to provide assistance to the State Director by performing a variety of tasks, operations and specific assignments related to efficiency of the animal damage control operations in the state.

PERSONAL CONTACTS

Assignment requires personal contacts with other program personnel, State/Federal wildlife agencies, University and research personnel and private landowners.

PURPOSE OF CONTACTS

Contacts are made to gain knowledge about and/or explain control techniques and to develop new alternative control techniques. Additional contacts may be required to obtain necessary permits or authorizations.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requires physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough, uneven or rocky surfaces, bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities. The work requires average agility and dexterity.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Work is performed in an office, laboratory and/or field locations. Temperature, weather and noise extremes will be encountered in the performance of field duties, which are often in remote and primitive areas. The incumbent is expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner, so as not to endanger self, fellow workers or property with which entrusted.